

REMARKS:

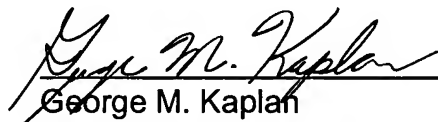
The claims in the application are 14-33.

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-26 respectively correspond to Claims 1-13 appended to the International Preliminary Examination Report as amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Claims 27-33 have been introduced in this regard. Consecutive numbering of Claims 14-33 presented herein is based upon the consecutive numbering of Claims 1-13 appended to the International Preliminary Examination Report. Additionally, it is respectfully requested the English Abstract found on the cover page of WO 03/080085 be inserted at the appropriate location.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George M. Kaplan", is written over a horizontal line.

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